

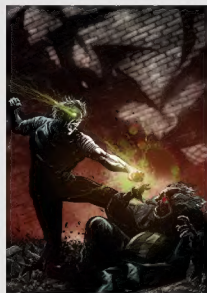
image
237
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN



M. G. F.





PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After realizing Jim paid a visit to Max in "the white", Twitch banishes Jim from his home, telling him to never step foot near his family again.

Over at the insane asylum, Bludd startles Clown while he visits Victoria. Even though the two are working together, Bludd sees his interaction with Victoria as a separate agenda, and he doesn't like it. To ensure Clown's ways are put to a stop, Bludd bites Victoria, turning her into a vampire, and therefore loyal to him. However, once Bludd leaves, Clown reveals there still may be a way to get what he needs out of Victoria, as the Redeemer steps from the shadows.

Back in New York, Jim has an internal struggle with the costume atop the Brooklyn Bridge. What will become of the costume if Jim is gone? Suddenly, Jim jumps...



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Bludd – An old and powerful vampire leader, the true depths of Bludd's history are as yet unknown. In his human guise as the international mogul, Mr. Ramus, Bludd has amassed great wealth and influence. His desire to control the Jim Downing, and with him the powers of the K7-Leetha, is no secret, and has led to an uneasy partnership between Bludd and Jim – a partnership that is mutually beneficial, and, quite possibly, mutually destructive.



Cogliostro – Once locked in a tower in Hell, the ultimate Hellspawn mentor has mysteriously returned to guide the newest Hellspawn, Jim Downing. However, his motivations are not yet clear, leaving Jim to wonder if Cog can be trusted.



Costume/Symbiote – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence, only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.

TODD McFARLANE

WRITER/PLOT

SZYMON KUDRANSKI

ART

FCO PLASCENCIA

COLOR

TOM ORZECOWSKI

LETTERING

JON GOFF

PLOT

TODD McFARLANE

COVER ARTIST

TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR


Managing Editor
JEN CASSIDY

Publisher For Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

image 

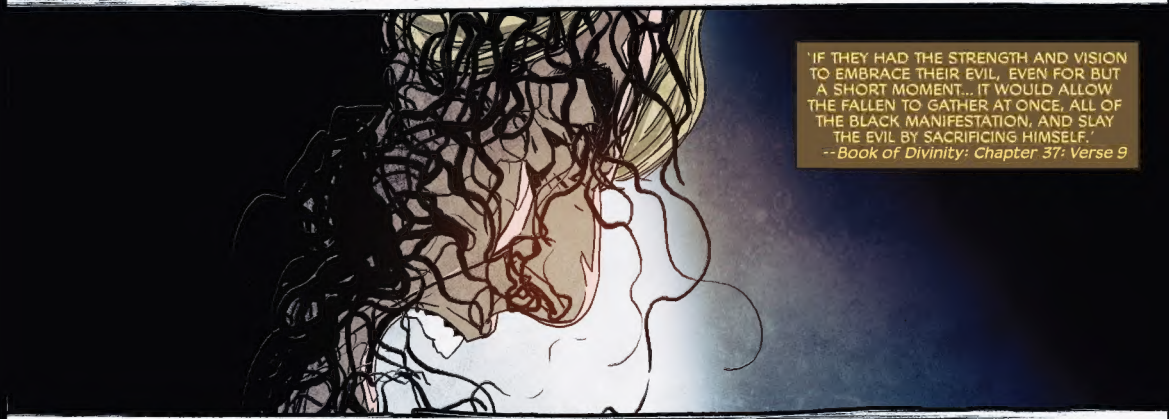
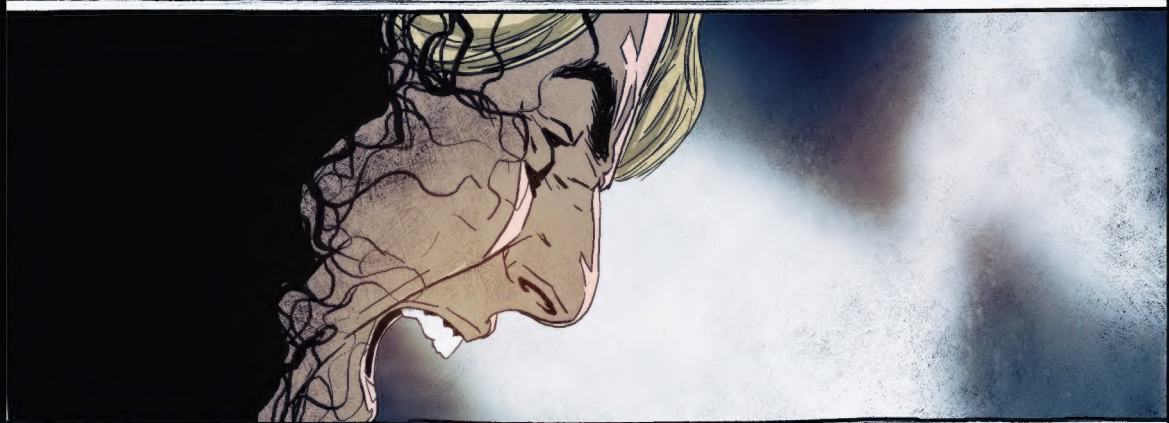
TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM



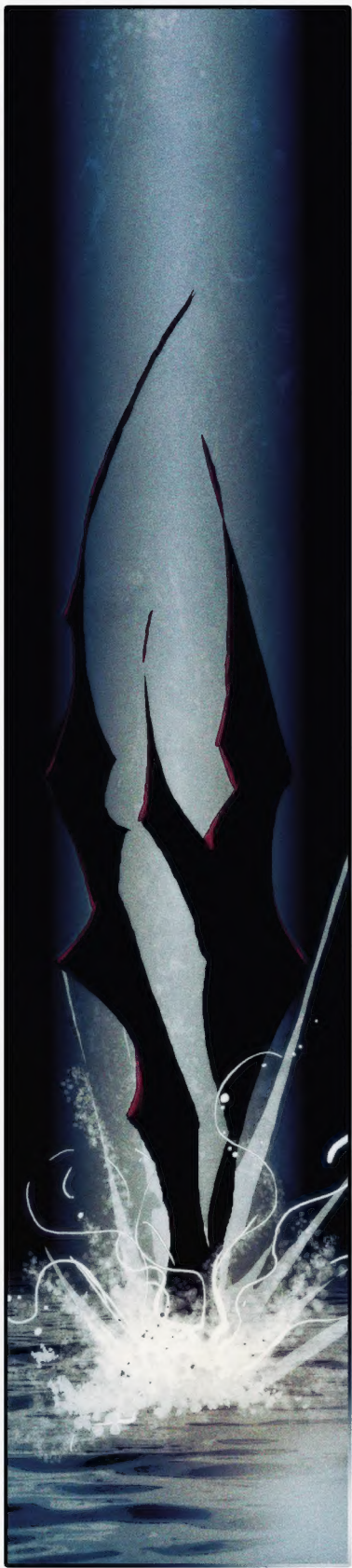
'AND IN THAT MOMENT GOD
CAST OUT HIS DARK ANGEL. FOR IT
WAS THEN THAT GOD KNEW THAT TO
ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF EVIL IN
HIS DOMAIN WOULD IN TIME TAINT
ALL HE HAD CREATED.'



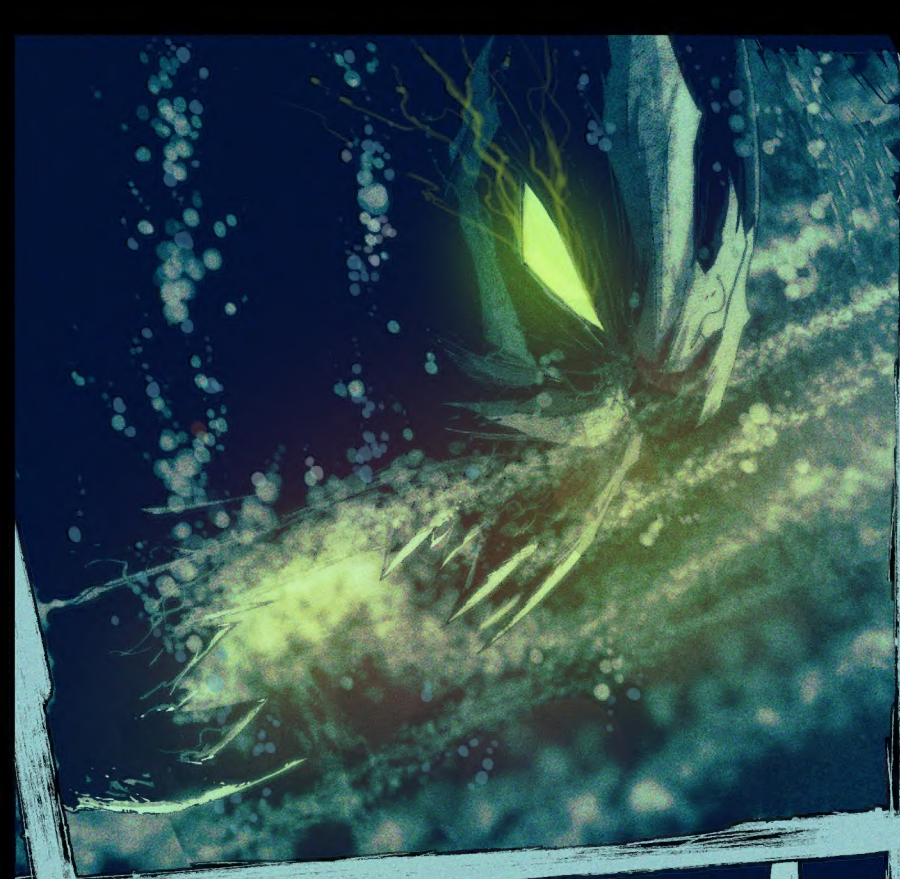
'HE ALSO KNEW THAT THE EVIL
WAS NOT THE ANGEL HIMSELF, BUT
INSTEAD WHAT WAS IN HIS HEART.
AND SINCE GOD COULD NOT SEPARATE
THE ANGEL FROM HIS HEART... BOTH
WERE CAST TO THE PITS OF HELL.'
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 23:
Verses 11-13



'IF THEY HAD THE STRENGTH AND VISION
TO EMBRACE THEIR EVIL, EVEN FOR BUT
A SHORT MOMENT...IT WOULD ALLOW
THE FALLEN TO GATHER AT ONCE, ALL OF
THE BLACK MANIFESTATION, AND SLAY
THE EVIL BY SACRIFICING HIMSELF.'
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 37: Verse 9



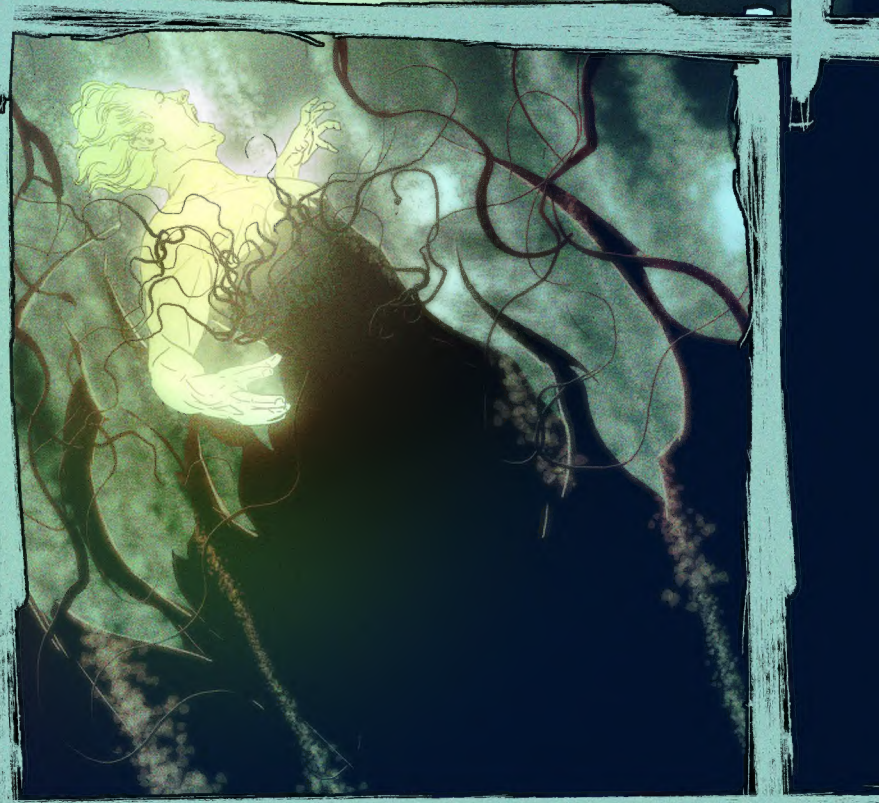
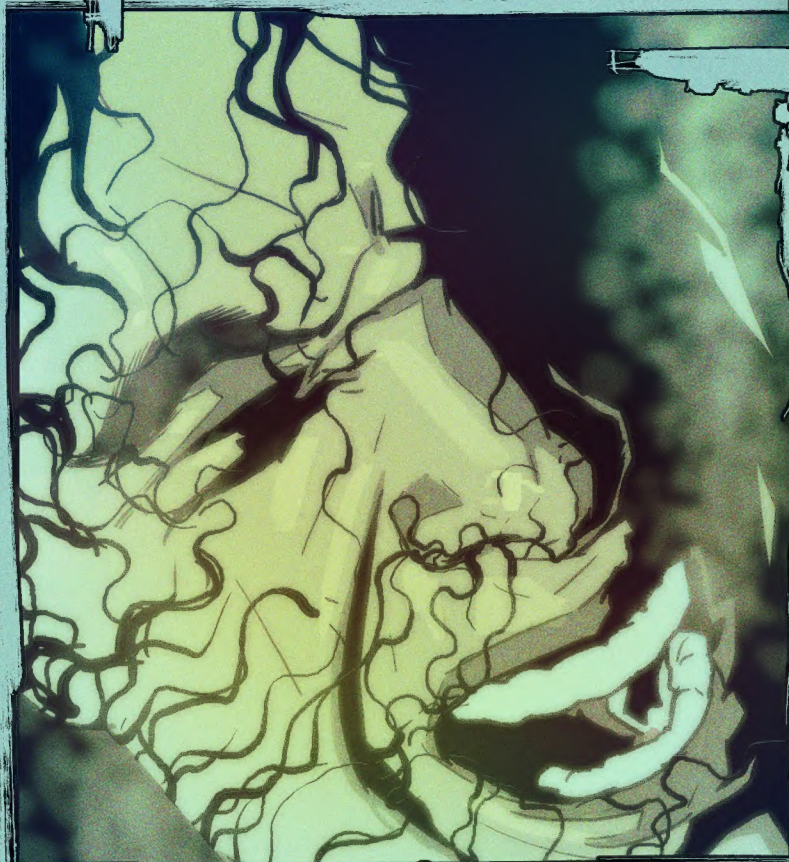




"FOR WHOEVER IS
WILLING TO FIGHT FOR
THEIR OWN SOUL..."



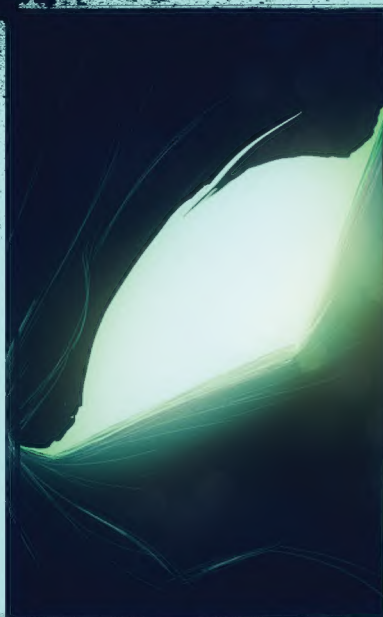
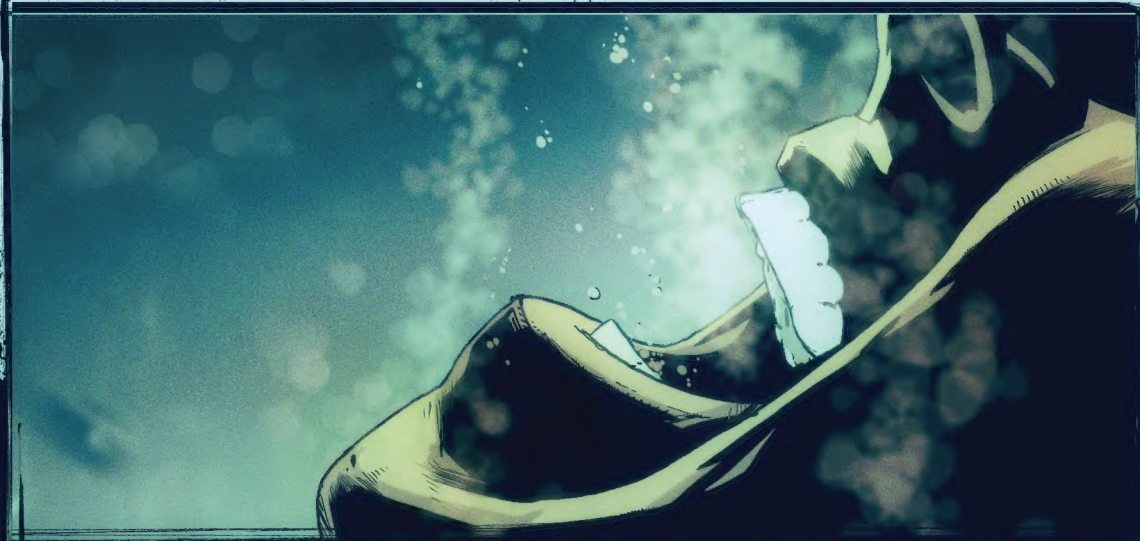
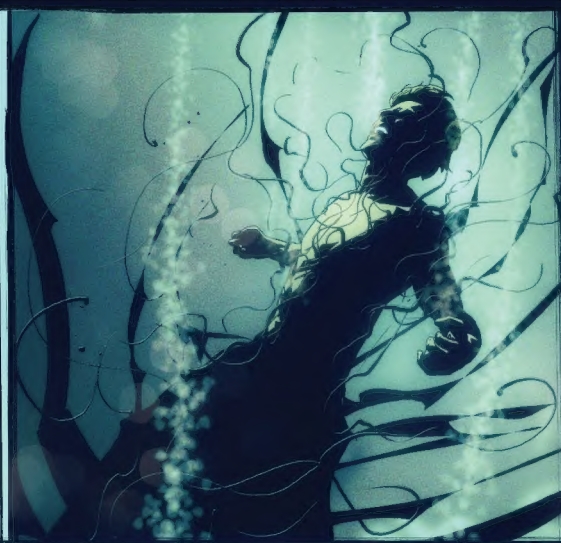
"...WHOEVER IS WILLING TO
BATTLE THE WICKEDNESS
WITH CLEANSING LIGHT..."





'...SHALL BATHE HIMSELF IN THE
DEEDS OF GOD AND BE SAVED BY THE
LORD'S HAND. THOSE THAT RESIST WILL
FOREVER MORE BE SWALLOWED BY THE
DARKNESS THEY REFUSE TO LET GO.'
--Book of Divinity: Chapter 4: Verses 8-10







GASP!

GET
UP!

YOU DON'T GET
TO DIE THAT EASILY.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT
WORKS! YOU CAN'T JUST
DROWN YOURSELF OR YOUR
SYMBIOTE?! EVEN IF YOU
WANTED TO-- THE COSTUME
WOULDN'T LET YOU! IT'S
HAD CENTURIES
HONING ITS SURVIVAL
INSTINCTS.

AND YOUR
FOOLISH STUNT
ONLY **REINFORCES**
THAT IT HAS POWER
OVER YOU. IT THRIVES
ON MANY THINGS...
WEAKNESS IS ONE
OF THEM.



NOW
GET UP.



AND
START
ACTING
LIKE A
MAN.



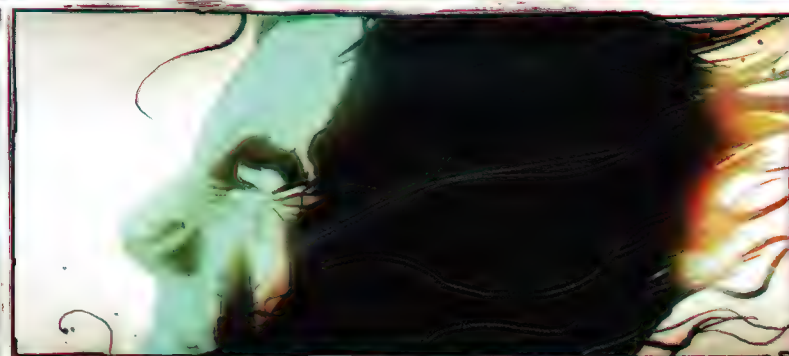
WHY
AM I
HERE?!



BECAUSE
WE NEED TO
TALK. BUT I
DON'T WANT *IT*
TO LISTEN.



SO, IT'S
TIME TO ASK
YOUR SYMBIOTE
TO LEAVE.





THERE...
THAT'S BETTER.
NOW WE CAN
BOTH RELAX.

WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU?

SAME
THING YOU
ARE. SOME-
ONE THAT'S
CURSED.



HOW...

I WAS
IN THE RIVER.
HOW'D WE
GET HERE?



IT DOESN'T
MATTER? WHO
GIVES A SHIT? TELL ME--
HOW MUCH OF WHAT'S
HAPPENED SINCE YOU
BECAME SPAWN
MAKES SENSE?

NOT
MUCH.

NOT MUCH?!
NONE OF IT SHOULD!
THAT'S THEIR PLAN. TO
KEEP YOU IN A STATE OF
CONSTANT CONFUSION.
THAT WAY YOU'RE NEVER
FOCUSED ON THE TRUTH
OF WHY THEY KEEP
ATTACKING YOU.

AND
WHAT'S
THAT?

**BECAUSE
THEY'RE
AFRAID OF YOU!**
SURELY CLOWN'S TOLD
YOU SOMETHING LIKE
THAT ALREADY. MY JOB
IS TO MAKE SURE
YOU'RE PREPARED FOR
ALL OF IT... OR AT
LEAST YOU HAVE THE
KNOWLEDGE OF
WHAT YOU'RE UP
AGAINST.

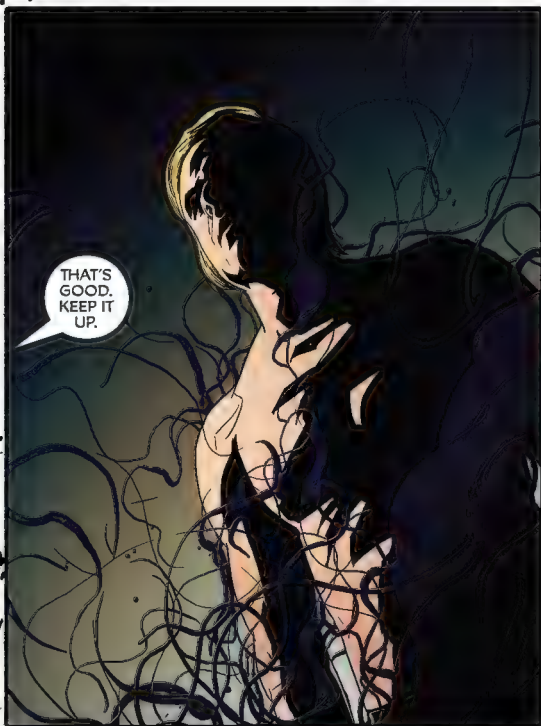


SO NOW
WHAT? I'M
SUPPOSED TO
JUST TRUST
YOU?



NO. BUT
I'M GOING TO
HELP YOU
ANYWAY.





THAT'S
GOOD.
KEEP IT
UP.



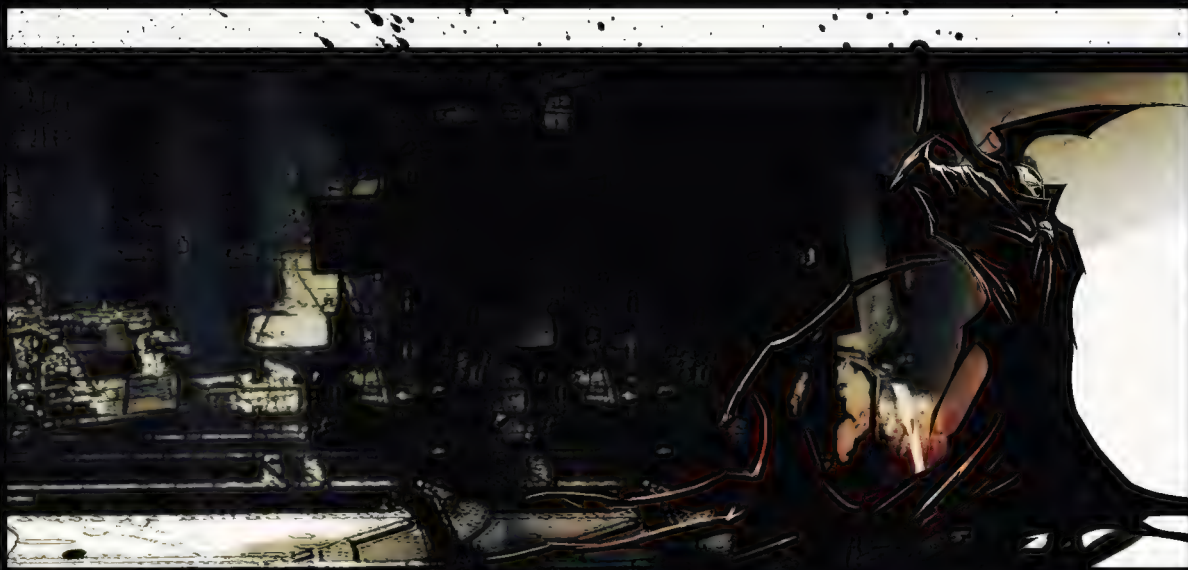
YOU NEED
TO BE FULLY
CLOTHED FOR
THIS NEXT STEP.
LET'S GO.



AND BEFORE
YOU EVEN ASK... NO.
THIS ISN'T A TRAP?
IT'S PART OF YOUR
EDUCATION.



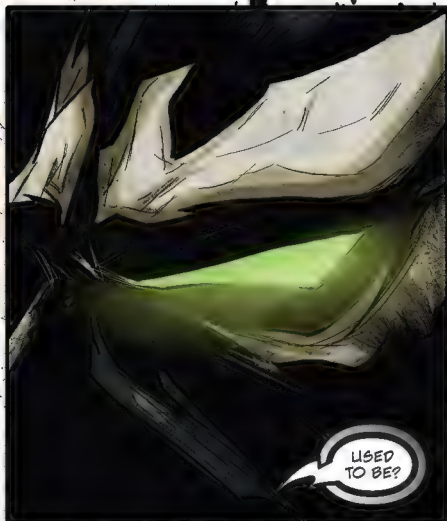
I'LL GO
FIRST. MAKE
SURE IT'S CLEAR.
YOU FOLLOW
BEHIND.



SO TELL ME
SOMETHING, OLD
MAN. WHAT'S YOUR
DEAL? YOU GOT
A NAME?



IT'S
COGLIOSTRO.
I USED TO BE A
SPAWN.



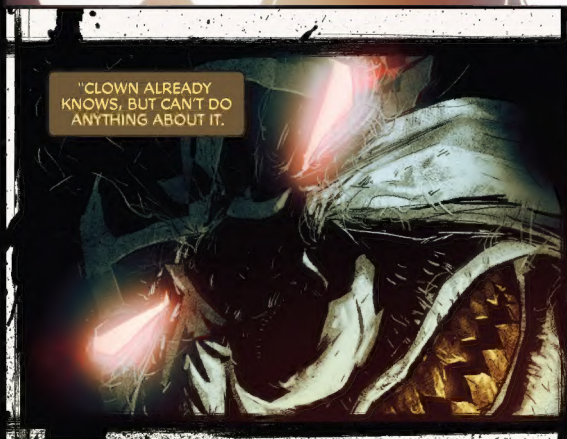
USED
TO BE?



THAT'S ENCOURAGING! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK THIS MIGHT BE A PERMANENT GIG.

I WOULDN'T TREAT THIS AS SOME KIND OF A JOKE. I CAN ASSURE YOU YOUR ENEMIES AREN'T-- BECAUSE THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S AT STAKE. WHY DO YOU THINK BLUDD BUILT THIS SPECIFIC PART OF YOUR NEW BUILDING SO QUICKLY?

BECAUSE IT HOLDS A SECRET? THAT'S WHY HE BOUGHT THIS PIECE OF LAND TO START WITH! HE NEEDED TO ERECT SOMETHING SO OTHERS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND WHAT HE WANTS TO HIDE.



"CLOWN ALREADY KNOWS, BUT CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.




"BUT BLUDD-- HE'S SEARCHED FOR THIS HIS ENTIRE LIFE.



"AND THE BIGGEST REASON HE EVER BEGAN FUNDING 'THE PROJECT' WAS TO BUILD AN ARMY HE COULD USE TO BATTLE GOD."



THE REASON YOU EXIST-- WHY YOU BECAME 'PATIENT 47'-- WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE TO BE PART OF THAT ARMY. AS MUCH AS BLUDD FLAUNTS HIS BATTALION OF VAMPIRES-- HE DOESN'T TRUST THEM.



"BUT WHAT IF HE
COULD GET HELL'S
GREATEST WARRIOR
TO HELP DESTROY
HEAVEN? WHAT IF HE
COULD GET... YOU?"

"AND YOUR
SYMBIOTE!"



GOD
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE.



BLUDD
KNOWS IT.
THAT'S WHY
HE'S TRYING
TO HIDE
THIS...

the 'DEAD ZONE!'

IT MAY NOT
LOOK LIKE MUCH--
BUT THIS SIMPLE PATCH
OF DIRT IS THE REASON
ALL THE WARS IN THE
WORLD HAVE BEEN
FOUGHT.



TO BE CONTINUED





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE